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**MINUTES
PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD
October 28, 1997**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Board was held on Tuesday, October 28, 1997, at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas. Board members present: Dewayne Naumann, Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, Rocky Medrano, Vice-Chair, Jeff Francell, Mary K. Isaacs.

Staff members present: Warren Struss, Kim Jamail Mitchell, Sarah Campbell, Jay Stone, Rick Ramirez, Stuart Strong, Peter Marsh, Jesus M. Olivares, Director, Mary Ybarbo.

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry.

B. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes of October 14, 1997, were approved.

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

See Below

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Robert E. Lee Road Relief Interceptor Planning Study

Craig Bell, City of Austin Water & Wastewater Utility, Mina Clark, Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution and Robena Jackson, independent mediator, gave this presentation to the board. The project has involved a planning study of the wastewater system above the interceptor in Robert E. Lee Road, which receives sewage flows from the Barton Creek and Eanes Creek basins. In August 1996, Espey, Huston & Associates completed an engineering study with a report entitled: Planning Study Report for Robert E. Lee Road Relief Interceptor Study.

Earlier the Center for Public Policy Dispute Resolution had begun assisting the utility in the development of a community communication and involvement plan. In the spring of 1997, the Utility and the Center initiated a consensus building process comprised of representatives of a number of the identified major stakeholder groups, with the intent of bringing these parties together to identify issues, develop options, frame acceptable solution and create plans. This consensus building group was formed and the process started in May 1997. In October 1997 the group completed its report. This report, which includes a map, provides a conceptual plan for how the City should provide wastewater services to the study area. The report anticipates provision of wholesale wastewater service to the Cities of Rollingwood and West Lake Hills, but strictly limits the extent and level of centralized service to Austin's territory as well as to these two municipalities. While the report allows conversion of some properties from septic tank systems to central sewer, it also features a water reclamation system with re-use in the area. It will allow the extension of collection facilities in some new areas, such as along Bee Cave Road, relief of several problematic facilities and allow downsizing of the existing large Barton Creek Interceptor.

The Water and Wastewater Utility will seek City Council approval of the report as a concept plan for the area, and approval to proceed with negotiations with the Cities of Rollingwood and West Lake Hills to develop interlocal agreements for wholesale wastewater service provision and construction of wastewater facilities in conformance with the terms of the report.

Peter Marsh informed the board the project will be brought back to the Land & Facilities Committee and the Parks Board for their approval.

Presentation on Ullrich Service Transmission Main

Anne Young of A. K. Young and Associates presented an update of the Ullrich Medium Service Transmission Main Project. The project will construct a 72" diameter water transmission main to connect the Ullrich Water Treatment Plant, located on Redbud Trail west of Town Lake, with the existing water transmission system in the vicinity of Third Street and San Antonio.

The alignment of the main has been finalized and has been designed to utilize, to the maximum, existing City rights of way, easements, and property. Parkland that will be affected by the construction will include Redbud Isle, the parking lots at Deep Eddy Pool and the maintenance barn, the parking lot at Austin High Tennis Center, part of Town Lake Park behind the Town Lake Animal Shelter, the parking lot in front of the Town Lake YMCA, parking lots at Sand Beach reserve (in front of the Cedar Door), and Shoal Creek Greenbelt.

The project will be constructed in two sections. The tunnel section will be from the Ullrich Treatment Plant under Town Lake to Lake Austin Boulevard, and open cut section will be the remainder of the project.

To construct the tunnel it is proposed that an access shaft, approximately 20' in diameter and 80' - 100' deep, will be constructed on Redbud Isle. After the project is completed Redbud Isle will be restored. It is proposed that a paved parking area, for approximately 20 vehicles, and emergency vehicle access to the water will be constructed near Redbud Trail. The existing unpaved road and parking areas around the perimeter of the island will be restored and restricted to pedestrian and emergency and maintenance vehicles only.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding Naming the Central City Entertainment Center

Dorothy Turner, President of Black Citizens Task Force, approached the board and requested that a hold be put on the naming of the Central City Entertainment Center until the center is built and the community can be involved in the naming of it.

Rev. Frank Garrett, Church Pastor, asked the board to table actions pertaining to the naming of the center until the center is built.

At the request of Willie Lewis, Council Member, this item was brought to the board for consideration.

Rocky Medrano made a motion to postpone the naming (by the Parks Board) of the Entertainment Center until proper community input can be provided. Dewayne Naumann added an amendment that the item be pulled from existing council agenda indefinitely until further input is received. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor of the motion was 5-0 (Naumann, Medrano, Isaacs, Francell, Castleberry).

D. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Presentation on Annexation

Sarah Campbell, Senior Planner with the Planning, Design and Construction Division, informed the board of the status of the Annexation Program. Annexations will be completed by the end of 1997. The Service Plans are 10-year contracts with the annexed areas and residents. Citizens want everything in writing. At Four Points the homeowners association wants the City to assume median maintenance. In Northwest Travis County MUD #1 there are two neighborhood parks with high levels of maintenance, camping, tennis reservations, and a lottery system for ballfield practice. A third park, Tanglewood Park, is under construction and the City will complete this park if the MUD leaves adequate funds. In Northwest Travis County MUD #2 the City will build a neighborhood park adjacent to the fire station, if MUD leaves adequate funds. Balcones Village is concerned about continuing existing oak wilt containment program. US 183 East/Parliament House Road, has Springwoods Neighborhood Park with a high level of maintenance and a small house on the grounds that could be used as an office or service area for the Department. Springwoods has plans to expand the park to 5 adjacent acres and the City will complete the park if MUD leaves adequate funds. Springwoods MUD owns a newly renovated heated pool, tennis courts and a volleyball court. The Stingrays swim team has an exclusive team use agreement of the pool. PARD is working to resolve operational and use issues so that the City will operate pool year round and swim team will get special use. In the following areas there are no park/recreation issues: Adey, IH-35 North, Tuscany Business Park, Thompson Lane, Carson Creek, IH-35 South and Davenport Ranch MUD. At Southland Oaks MUD, Cherry Creek Park will be maintained as it is currently. Tanglewood Forest MUD has about 8 parks which are small but highly maintained. Pickle Park has a pool with longer summer hours than the City. The MUD and the City are investigating the feasibility of forming a limited taxing district to retain control and ownership of this park system. The Village at Western Oaks has trails and one playscape along a branch of Williamson Creek. Circle C Ranch MUD has 40 acres of parkland planted in wildflowers which are currently mowed by Bradley (the developer). PARD will assume this responsibility upon annexation.

E. ITEMS FOR ACTION

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Annual Town Lake Concession Report

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Proposed/Revised Concession Policy

Jay Stone, Financial Analyst with Management Services Division, informed the board that concession are down a total of \$23,978 for the 96-97 year mainly because of the rains that occurred in May and June. Barton Springs Pool was open only a handful of days in June, thus Barton Springs Food and Beverage paid

\$9,684 less commission than last year. The newly awarded contract for the train in Zilker Park, the Zilker Zephyr, did not become operational until March 1997 and their revenue is shown in the report for a 7 month period. The Wooden Rowboat concession was cancelled. There are two month to month concessions which pay a percentage of income to the department: L'aviron Rowing (10%) and Lone Star Riverboat (5%).

Mr. Stone also informed the board the current Concessions on City Parkland Policy is being reviewed by a committee comprised of City staff, Parks Board and Environmental Board Members as prescribed by the current policy. Highlights of the proposed changes are: permanent contract concession payments from the concessionaires will either be on the percentage of sales basis or a flat fee payment schedule. The Director of PARD will determine which method will apply on a case by case basis. Temporary and seasonal concessions that are granted a permit two times with a 12-month period will be considered in the next annual process for new permanent concessions. Single day permits of \$50 for concessionaires selling goods outside of a special event on city parkland. Performing artists must purchase a permit for \$10 a day from PARD to perform on city parkland.

Mary K. Isaacs moved to submit the 96-97 annual report to Council and that Council support the Concession Policy as submitted. Dewayne Naumann seconded. The vote in favor was 5-0 (Francell, Medrano, Castleberry, Isaacs, Pneumonia MN)

Make a Recommendation to Council Regarding the Eeyore's Task Force Report

Rosemary Castleberry, Chair, informed the board the Eeyore's Task Force had been meeting to determine the best site for this celebration. Members of the task force were: Kendall Moss, Warren Struss (representing PARD), Rosemary Castleberry, Dewayne Naumann, Mary K. Isaacs (PARB), Susan Cook (Bouldin Creek Neighborhood Assn.), Stacy Suites, Stewart Smiley (Eeyore's organizers), Mike McHone (University Area Partners), Jim Christensen, Tina Contros (Old Enfield Homeowners Assn.). A final report of the task force findings has been prepared and will be presented to council. At the September 3rd meeting the task force voted 6-4 to move the event to Waterloo Park. (Moss, Struss, Contros, Christensen, Castleberry, Naumann) (Suites, Smiley, Cook, McHone).

Rocky Medrano made a motion the board recommend to City Council that Eeyore's Birthday Party be moved to Waterloo Park. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor was 4-1 (Castleberry, Isaacs, Naumann, Medrano) (Francell)

Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Park Police Salaries

Warren Struss, Park Police Administrator, introduced Rick Ramirez, Human Resources Supervisor in the Parks Department. Officer Struss informed the board that in 1994 park police were not included in a pay study on city non-civil service police which moved city pay grades closer to Travis County rates. With the recent rate increase for Travis County Peace Officers and Park Rangers there is a need to re-evaluate park police salaries.

Dewayne Naumann made a motion that the board prepare a resolution to council in support of upgrading park police officers to that of Travis County police and Travis County park rangers. Mary K. Isaacs seconded. The vote in favor was 5-0.

(Naumann, Isaacs, Medrano, Castleberry, Francell).

This item will be on the agenda for November 25, 1997.

F. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

The 1998 Bond Ballot Development chart was distributed.

Mr. Olivares informed the board that Dell Computers will be donating \$360,000 to sponsor Yulefest for the next three years. There will be a press conference held at the entrance to Yulefest on November 5, 1997, to make this announcement.

G. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Minutes from the last Programs Committee were distributed.

Land and Facilities Committee meeting date to be determined.

A listing of the Robert Mueller Municipal Airport Advisory Group was distributed.

The Special Events Policy will be reviewed October 29th.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:45 p.m.